

This time we open with the Editorial from the Australian UFO Researcher (Credit UFO Research (NSW) PO Box 6, Lane Cove, Sydney). It is worth reading to bring members up to date on recent trends in the past twelve months, no other comment is really necessary.

"The Turning Point".

In the wake of extraordinary activity around the world for the latter part of last year and early this year (Italy, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand) a reconsideration of the present status of the UFO subject is in order. Despite a retake on the United Nations "non-event" and the back stepping of NASA, several developments have occurred that deserve mention.

Here in Australia, international attention has been centred on the Valentich mystery and in New Zealand the Kaikoura coast reports have provided researchers with an extraordinary wealth of data for assessment.

In the United States "Retrievals of the Third Kind" and the countermanoeuvres that have embroiled the CIA have been prominent and significant developments.

A new book, "UFOs Official Documents of the Spanish Government" by Juan Jose Benitez, heralds a remarkable new development in the documentation of official government involvement with the UFO subject. This book will be most assuredly a classic, if some of the cases released are anything to go by. They include the extraordinary Canary Island sighting complex which featured multiple witness status, radar coverage, entity encounter, electromagnetic effects, photos, and a ground trace.

The winds of change however are most evident in the work of GEPAN - "Groupe d'Etude des Phenomenes" - the official French government UFO study group which had Dr Claude Poher as its head.

In June 1978, a 5 volume report, some 500 pages in length - GEPAN's first status report - was circulated on a restricted basis. Despite the vast resources at its disposal, GEPAN devoted most of its research effort only on 11 cases of high credibility and strangeness. The lesson for all civilian research groups, on the matter of limited resource deployment is evident here. Ten of the cases remain inexplicable after GEPAN's study. All were close encounter cases, two of them being entity reports. The investigation standard set, makes the depth of investigation undertaken by the Condon report investigators seem very poor by comparison. In many cases, the investigations were textbook models of how such investigations should be carried out. The GEPAN report concluded in summary that the witnesses have really seen the facts they describe, most of the cases could not be explained, witness appear to have seen material phenomena, "relative to a flying machine of which the lifting power and propulsion means are entirely unknown to our knowledge" and that these conclusions are backed up "with our regard to ruling out all doubtful and misinterpretation cases". GEPAN's final conclusion is quite sobering. "Study of such phenomenon seems to us capable of increasing mankind's knowledge for effecting improvement in our techniques. All this has an extensive importance".

Bill Chalker (Director)

SIGHTINGS

Generally the early year "quiet" has continued but there does appear to be a recent lift in activity as you will see in the comments after our list of sightings. Old reports are still coming to light, the first two from the 1960s.

DATE	TYPE	TIME	DURATION	WITNESSES	LOCATION
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about 1965 CE1 02.30 15min 4 Jericho

A party of four were hunting with a spotlight when a brilliant white light was seen approaching from the south. The witnesses shone the spotlight at the approaching light and it came to a halt overhead. Everything was lit up with a silver light, grass, trees, vehicle all appeared silver. The object was hard to look at for more than a short period, it was oval with a silver rim, and gold to orange centre that kept changing colour. Next day the witnesses had sore and bloodshot eyes, one went to see his doctor who said he had received a welders flash. Finally the object went straight up diminishing in size until lost from view. Little value due to age of case Value 0.B

1968 CE3 early hours ? 1+1 Wynyard

Second hand report received from wife of deceased witness. The witness was in the habit of getting up in the early hours and wandering about. One night he sighted a greyish zeppelin shaped object stationary towards Table Cape. There appeared to be windows along the side and movements could be seen as if there were people inside. The witness went outside for a better look but the object never moved, finally he went back to bed. The wife met another neighbour who claimed to have seen a "strange object" that same morning. At the time no one took much notice of the witnesses. In view of the many reports since the wife now wonders what her husband could have seen. Value 2.E (Sightings contd: page 2.)

SIGHTINGS Continued.....

Jan 28th 1979

NL. 22.40 1hour 1 LEBRINA.

Mrs Basset noticed a white light diving about in the NE sky, at one point it shone a light downwards before finally going out of sight behind a hill. A second similar light appeared in the SE and moved to the area where the first light had been noticed. This light also made rapid dives then a cloud seemed to form around it. Smaller white and red lights appeared beneath the main light, it also shone a red light onto trees and paddocks for about a minute. Mrs Bassett tired of watching and went to bed. Value 1.B

March 4th 1979

NL. 22.00 15min 10 PIPERS RIVER

A group of witnesses round a seaside campfire noticed a bright orange light out over the sea, it was reflecting onto the sea below. When first seen it was stationary for some 10 minutes. The witnesses say it was larger than moon sized. Finally it moved slowly towards the shore, coming within an estimated kilometre of the witnesses. The object which first looked like a cigar was now more elliptical and below the level of the horizon. It seemed to disappear by tilting and going down into the sea. Value 3.B

March 30th 1979

CE2 21.40 4hrs 2 MAATSUYKER ISLAND

Two witnesses were taking weather details when they saw an intense yellowish light approaching fast from the south. It lit up the island as it came closer. It was difficult to look at and the witnesses turned away, looking back seconds later they found it had receded into the southern sky. It remained stationary over the sea occasionally dropping off a blue to white like light. The witnesses' dog had played up during the close approach of the light but quietened down later. Finally in the early hours of the morning the light moved away to the south east and took on more of a blue colour. The witnesses being tired went to bed. Value 5.B

April 17th 1979

NL 02.15 10mins 3 TUNBRIDGE

The witnesses were travelling north to Launceston. At Tunbridge they stopped the car after spotting an object with steady red and white lights at low elevation. It looked like a dark triangular shape with a red light on each side, a white light in the centre below and a light of undetermined colour on the top. It was about 400mts off the road and not moving. At first a humming noise could be heard but it became fainter after a while. The witnesses had to hurry on and when they left they had a final look out the rear of the car of the object still hovering over the paddocks. Value 2.B

INVESTIGATING

The second half of August has brought a run of sightings to investigate, at the moment the reports have to be followed up for sighting forms, then the details will need to be checked out. The reports are under investigation and at this stage are not to be considered as UFO cases.

The first event of note occurred on August 20th at 9.28pm, the witness, an ex policewoman was driving north on the Murchison Highway near Hatfield River. A green light appeared behind her car lighting up the interior. Then the car clock stopped as did her wrist watch. This was followed by a loss of power to the motor, the witness could not get the car to increase speed or slow down from its 50kph. The car returned to normal when the light just disappeared.

A line of 4 lights was spotted from Dysart on August 24th, they would come on and off and eventually rose slowly northwards and faded out.

Wednesday night (Aug 29th) was a busy time. First a boat off Low Head tracked red and white flashing lights on its radar as the lights headed out to sea about 10pm. It was thought the lights were on an aircraft but DCA Launceston says there were no planes in that area until near 11pm. Meanwhile at Tullah back on the West Coast a large number of residents say they watched flashing lights over the town at 10.15pm, the lights were visible for 20minutes as they drifted overhead, then gained elevation before disappearing. At 10.45pm sightings occurred at Ulverstone, a red glowing cylinder shaped object being watched for 5 minutes before it went behind a hillside. DCA said Ulverstone is on a flight path so it could be aircraft, the Weather Bureau talked of witnesses seeing the Aurora. Some one must be wrong???

Moving lights were again reported on Sept 3rd from Geilston Bay, also our Northern Reps had lights reported at Gawler and a Close Encounter case to investigate at South Mt Cameron.

DID YOU KNOW..... The Centre has 338 unexplained cases on its files covering the period 1948 to the end of 1978. The sightings are made up of 203 Nocturnal Lights, 57 CE1, 39 CE2, 30 Daylight Discs, and 9 Close Encounters of the Third Kind. There is a reasonably even spread of reports throughout the year except for a low in the December to January period. The seasons show a more significant difference in the reports. Summer 69, Autumn 94, Winter 92, Spring 74. The bulk of the cases occur between 19.00 and midnight.

Most cases involve lights (119). Round or disc 78, Oval to elliptical 41, dome to half circle 26, Cigar 16, Only 29 sightings lasted more than an hour illustrating the short duration of many sightings. Single witnesses occurred in 100 reports, two witnesses in 119 cases, 3-5 in 82 sightings and over five in the balance of reports.

NOTE... Our Northern Representative is now Eric Hodgson, 2 Parish Cres. GeorgeTown.

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